

EVER FEEL  
YOU'VE LOST  
YOUR LAST  
SMURF?



SMURF  
COLLECTORS  
CLUB  
INTERNATIONAL

24 Cabot Road W.

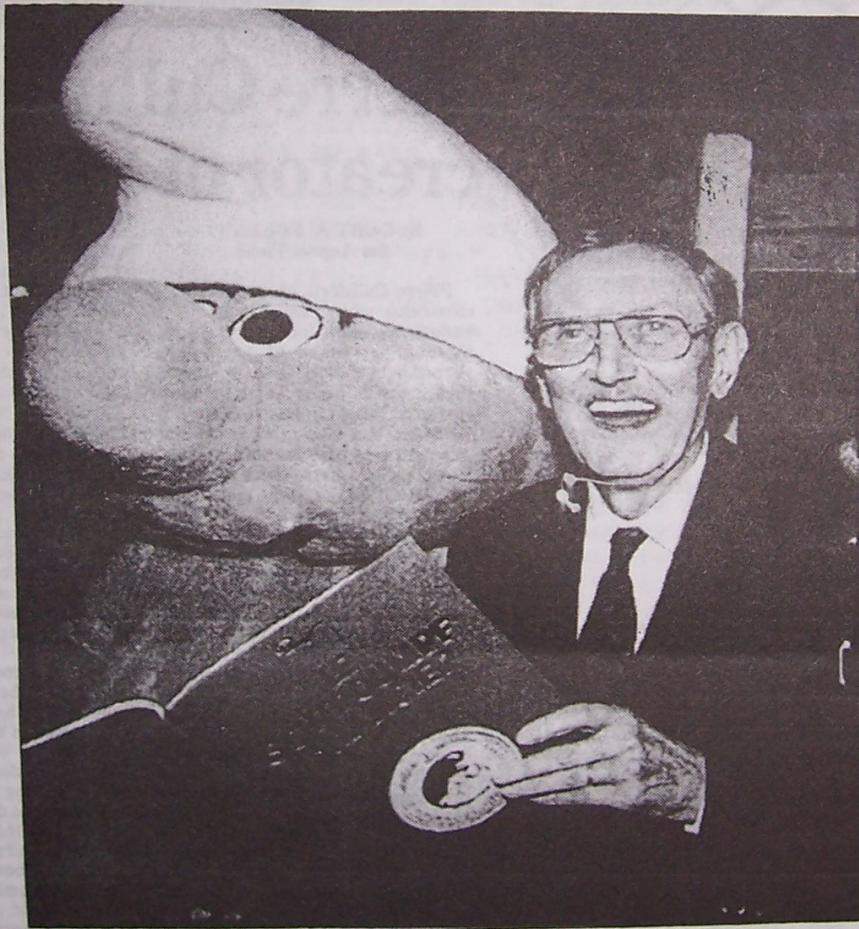
Massapequa, NY 11758

SUPPLEMENT I

SPRING 1993

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF "PEYO"...

1928 - 1992



This photo of "Peyo" was taken just one month before his death on November 25, 1992.

"Peyo" launched his 16th book of the Smurfs, "Le Schtroumpf Financier," about a Smurf who takes a look at the world of money. "Peyo" said, in this last interview, "Please know that I took a lot of pleasure in writing and drawing this story. It's natural to say that I had the same feeling after each publication of my books."

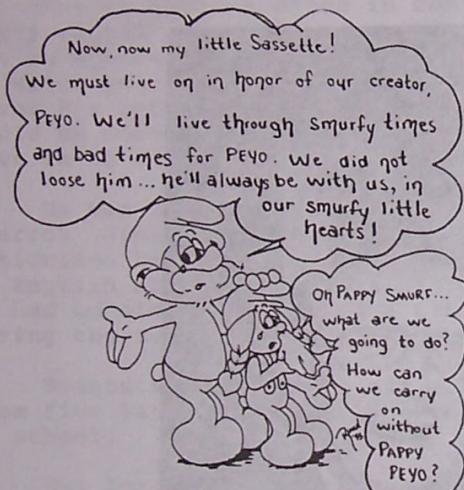
FROM OUR MEMBERS.....

"We are all deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Pierre "Peyo" Culliford. He was certainly one of the most brilliant cartoonists ever. We should all pause a moment to consider the wonderful "gift" he gave us - a creation we could all take to our hearts and enrich our lives with. He left a great legacy and will not be forgotten."

"What happiness "Peyo" gave us and the world. God keep him close!"  
Lillian from Fla.

Peyo died at 64  
He gave the Smurfs their name  
Little Blue creatures in the store  
say "Christmas Won't be the same"  
Of Worldwide grief there is no lack  
As figures we all keep  
We've even got one who's wearing black  
He's our chimney sweep  
None the less, he wears a smile  
He's a Smurf you see  
For Pierre Culliford set Smurfy style  
When he set his imagination free  
Now fans around the world await  
A design that's even cuter  
Perhaps "Peyo & Friends & the Date"  
As a Memorial done in Pewter

Barry from N.Y.



## Obituaries

# Pierre Culliford; creator of Smurfs

By BURT A. FOLKART  
*Los Angeles Times*

Pierre Culliford, the unassuming cartoonist who created a world of paunchy elves with droopy hats, put them in a village of mushroom-shaped huts and called them Smurfs, died Christmas Eve at his home in Brussels, Belgium. He was 64.

"There is a village where Christ-mas will never be the same again," Belgian radio said Thursday. "The Smurfs will be mourning their father tonight."

Culliford, who called himself Peyo — a diminutive of his first name — died of a heart attack just weeks after his final work, a recording called "The Money Smurfs," was completed. In failing health, he said that the album — the 16th in the Smurf series — had given him renewed hope.

At their peak, the Smurfs, eventually favorites around the world, drew young American viewers to their TV sets on Saturday mornings producing Nielsen figures that even topped nighttime favorite "Dallas."

The tiny, blue homunculi ("three apples high" by their creator's definition) lived a simple life in an enchanted forest, at peace with all the world with the exception of the evil wizard Gargamel and his cat Azrael.

Culliford fashioned his charming creatures from a cartoon strip he conceived for a Brussels movie company. He called it "Johan et Pirlouit" and set it in medieval times.

Known in French as *Les Schtroumpfs*, the Smurfs began as extras in the "Johan et Pirlouit" adventures, which were then being

published in the weekly *Spirou* magazine.

"Three years from now, no one will talk about them anymore," Culliford said in 1957 in what proved a poor prophecy.

Smurfs now have fans worldwide, and are known by such varied names as "Smurfies" in South Africa, "Strunfs" in Brazil and "Lah-Shin-Lings" in China.

They even speak their own language, often using the word "smurf" as an all-purpose verb or noun as in "Let's smurf on over" or "All for smurf and smurf for all."

They have been seen in more than 250 animated cartoons and countless comic strips and their likeness was licensed to more than 2,000 companies marketing dolls, toys and other goods.

Peyo became a millionaire.

Although the Smurfs date to 1957, they did not become popular in the United States until Fred Silverman, then chief of NBC, bought a Schtroumpf doll for his daughter as he was getting on plane in Honolulu. She was so delighted with the gift that he decided to develop the dolls for TV and turned to Bill Hanna and Joseph Barbera whose animation company dominated the Saturday morning field.

Their writers drew on 20 years of Culliford's strips for ideas and the shows quickly became a national and then an international success.

In one of the few Smurf moves that failed, a theme park opened near Metz in northeastern France in 1991 but has since closed.

Culliford is survived by his wife and two children.

## INTRODUCTION

In the late 1980s Benelux, a publisher in Belgium, produced a beautiful 12-volume set of books entitled "THE COLLECTION OF PIERRE "PEYO" CULLIFORD ARTWORK."

The series consisted of five books about Smurfs, three books about Johan and Pirlouit (Peewee), two books about Benoit Brisefer, one book about Poussy, and one book about Jacky and Celestin, all of "Peyo's" cartoon characters.

Thanks to member Helene, the Club's French-Canadian Connection, we are able to present excerpts from these books telling us about "Peyo."

The following has been translated from French-to-English for us by member Helene.

### EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT "PEYO", WITHOUT DARING TO SMURF IT! BY THIERRY GROENSTEEN

Who does not know Smurfs? Those who do not know the little blue creatures, raise your hands. For sure this person has to be dead, blind, or has come from another planet.

Created in 1958 by the cartoonist "Peyo," the Smurfs have invaded progressively all sectors of kids' distractions: Illustrated books, records, toys, T.V. screen and movies, merchandising, amusement parks, musical shows, and I'm forgetting some.. The Smurf phenomenon has entertained many generations of kids and adults.

But it happens often in comic books that the popularity of the characters eclipsed the author's personality. A discreet man, "Peyo" is, for a lot of readers, just an abstract signature; a label of quality. This luxurious integral collection, of which you are holding the first book, is hoping to make you discover or rediscover his entire work (which is not limited to only Smurfs, as you'll see). It would be convenient to start by getting to know the author, whose principle objective is to entertain, amuse, and to make us dream.

He was born in Brussels on June 25, 1928. In the family everyone called him Pierrot (diminutive of his name: Pierre), except a small cousin who could not articulate his "R" and pronounced it "Peyo." The nickname would stay. "Peyo" had an English origin. He lost his father, an exchange agent, when he was 8 years old. He had an older sister and a brother, seven years older, who would get married during the second World War and would make a career at I.B.M.

Events would disturb the progress of the future writer's school years, passing from five Latino technical schools to end up in four modern. And that's the end of school.

But let's go back to the years 1935-40, his scouting days, where "Peyo" would discover his calling as a scriptwriter. His Scout Chief was an excellent storyteller, who would keep his young audience in suspense by improvising the never-ending story of a Roman who died in antiquity and was revived in the 20th century. "Peyo" would draw a few drawings from these characters, while dreaming of the day when he would invent his own stories.

His second model is Herge. "Peyo" owned all his books ever published and read them to the point of knowing them by heart. He also read all French comic books (Les Pieds Nickeles, Bibi, Fricotin, Zig et Puce, and even Becassine) and pre-war comics: Hurrah!, Robinson, Mickey, and many more. In literature, his bedtime books were Les "Lettres De Mon Moulin" from Daudet and novels by Jerome K. Jerome.

The time had not arrived yet to start creating. Quitting school against his will (due to the war), "Peyo" was sixteen when he started looking for a job. He would find one at a local cinema as a projectionist where he would stay for a year.

Now working at C B A Animation Studio, created a few years before, and recently moved from Liege to Brussels. The experience would not last; the liberation came and the competition from American productions would lead the studio, directed by Paul Nagmt, to bankruptcy. But it's a major step in our young cartoonist's career.

First he would meet there Andre Franquin, Morris and Eddy Paape whose names would be later attached to Gaston Lagaffe, Lucky Luke, and Marc Dacier. They would later be founders of Spirou Magazine.

Next, he would work for the studio who would later sign the major picture "La Flute a Six Schtroumpf." While preparing an episode called "Le Cadeau a La Fee," "Peyo" drew, for the first time, little dwarfs who would prefigure early Smurfs. They wore little hats with flowers turned upside down.

Next, "Peyo" went to work for a publicity agency and followed some drawing courses at L' Academie Des Braux-Arts. His work was to copy plaster busts. He flirted with numerous young ladies who would work there with hopes of finding friends or husbands.

"Peyo" put his first cartoons in the press. His debut was in Riquet, a supplement for kids put out in April, 1946 by the newspaper L'occident.

For Riquet he created two short-lived characters, the Scout "Puce" and the little Indian "Picd-tendre." Paradoxically, it is the story of the second one that the Mongli Scout's Magazine would choose to re-issue in 1948.

Meanwhile, "Peyo" would vainly offer his services to Tintin Newspaper and would turn himself to "Le Petit Monde" and weekly newspapers financed by the major store "Au Bon Marche": "Le Petit Monde" would only last 59 weeks from March '46 to December '47. He would already recognize Willy Vandersteen who, at this time, had already created his famous "Bob et Bobette." "Peyo" and Willy drew "Les Enquetes de L'inspecteur Pik," (a detective character); a small man, pipe-smoker, who wore hat, glasses and moustache.

If all "Peyo's" attempts weren't long-lived, that wouldn't be the case for a series from mid-ages, "Les Adventures De Johan," inaugurated in 1946 in the Bruxellois Daily, "la Derniere Heure." His character Johan is a young page at the service of Lord Aauvon. In spite of still awkward drawings and poor scenarios, the series was liked. It was published on a regular basis until 1947, and re-published in 1950 to 1952, in "Le Soir," a competitor newspaper.

At last, in September 1952, Johan appeared in Spirou. "Peyo" got hired on the Franquin Council by editor Charles DuPuis. Now, with black hair, the little Page became a valiant knight. It would be placed with the most popular heroes introducing Sancho Panca in the personne of Pirlouit (Peewee), "Le Lutin Du Bois Aux Roches" (1954). It's in this same series that later will appear the Smurfs, these amazing little creatures to whom "Peyo" would be forced to devote all his energy because of their great popularity.

Their name did not need long research. During a meal taken in the company of Franquin, "Peyo" had asked, without thinking, "Pass-me-the....Smurf!," just as if he would have said the "Thingumabob." The WORD was judged so funny, it was used for everything in the next days. It came back a little while later when it was time to name the sympathetic little blue dwarfs.

Amusing Smurfs! They successfully overshadowed Johan & Pirlouit, and all other characters created by "Peyo," Poussy (1950), Benoit Brisefer (1960), or Jacky et celestin (1961). Hopefully, all paper heroes are immortal. They will all be there in the following volumes of this collection.

## LES AVENTURES DE CLAUDIUS MUSIUS CATON



TO BE CONTINUED  
SUPPLEMENT II  
SUMMER 1993

"Peyo's" first cartoon strip. Ideas taken from his Scout Leader. After doing 4 strips "Peyo" still has not introduced "Claudius Musius Caton," the hero of the story.



One drawing presented by "Peyo" in 1944-45 to get hired at C B A Studios. "The funniest thing, says "Peyo," is that they hired me!"

Research of characters for a Pirate series called "Captain Coky" that was never published.



The adventures of "Pied-tendre," Le Petit Indian shows clearly the influences of cartoon drawing courses taken by "Peyo." He has not found his style yet!



"Puce" was published in Piquet. "Peyo" remembers, with nostalgia, his scouting days.

Another unpublished Scout series. It was submitted to TinTin Newspaper. Hergé's verdict told "Peyo": "You will have to work a lot harder before succeeding in this business."

